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REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1-15 are allowed. Claims 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. The Specification is objected to due to inconsistencies therein. Claim 10 has been cancelled.

In order to clarify the invention, Claims 1, 8 and 16 have been amended to be consistent with the Examples. It is apparent that confusion has arisen in that the overall reaction of the glassy matrix primarily occurs by the reaction of the alkoxy-functionalized siloxane and the functionally-terminated siloxane or silane. The polymethylsilsequioxane (PMSS) dissolved in the crosslinking agent also reacts with these components and becomes part of the glassy matrix. Thus as amended, the glassy matrix comprises all three components. In operation, the glassy matrix may be formed by either reaching the other two components and then reacting with the dissolved PMSS or reacting the components all together as in the Examples.

Applicants believe that the amendments to the claims render the claims including Claim 16 consistent with the Examples, and respectfully requests that the § 112 rejections be withdrawn. If the Examiner finds that the amendments do not overcome the rejection under Section 112, Applicants solicit the Examiner's suggestions as to a satisfactory amendment.

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CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any small matters outstanding of resolution, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for expeditious handling.

Respectfully submitted,

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Betty-Lou Rosser